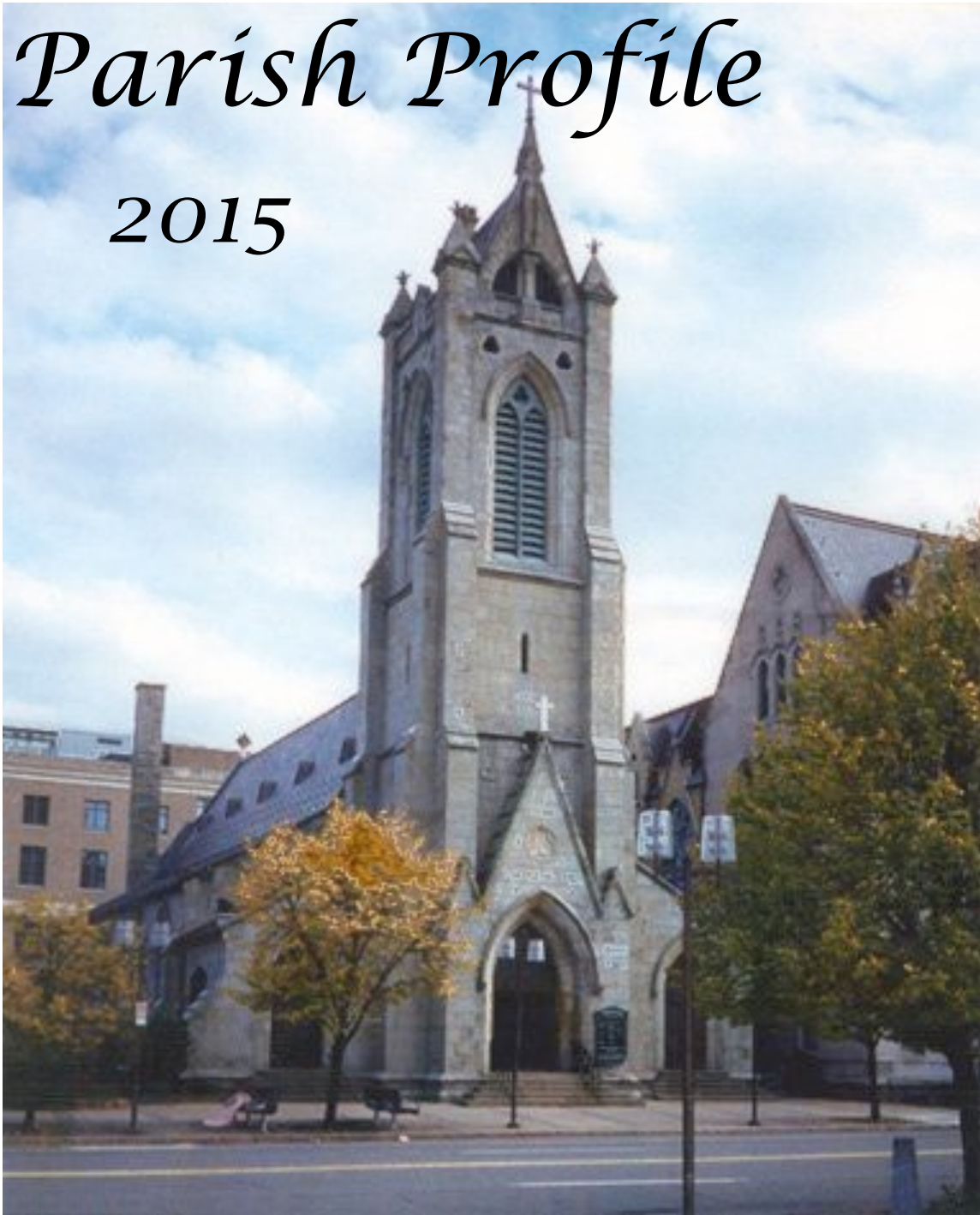


Parish Profile

2015



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

232 Wyoming Ave.



Scranton, PA 18503

(570) 342-7654

www.stlukesscranton.org

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 **Ministry Description** 
for the Priest-in-charge of St. Luke's

Title of Ministry	Priest-in-charge of St. Luke's Church
Identity	St. Luke's Church is a member of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Bethlehem.
Basic Function	The Priest-in-charge is the spiritual leader, pastor and chief executive of the parish and is responsible for the overall leadership of the congregation in the areas of worship, spirituality, pastoral care, fellowship, and stewardship.
Vestry Meetings	The Priest-in-charge presides at all meetings of the Vestry unless the Priest-in-charge delegates this responsibility to the Senior Warden.
Personnel	The Priest-in-charge secures the services of qualified staff and lay assistants. Salaried or non-salaried people in the parish report to and are supervised by the Priest-in-charge; these include the Secretary, Organist, Sexton, and Music Director.
Worship	The Priest-in-charge oversees and regularly serves at St. Luke's regular schedule of worship services, including one Saturday (5:00) and two Sunday Eucharist Services (one said, one sung), one mid-week service, seasonal liturgies (Advent, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Great Easter Vigil and Easter), and other appropriate liturgies, such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.
Pastoral Care	The Priest-in-charge's pastoral care includes visits to parishioners and others and taking sacraments to the sick and homebound as appropriate.
Christian Education	As spiritual leader of the parish, and in cooperation with lay leadership, the Priest-in-charge approves the design and leadership of all educational and spiritual programs, including youth and adult ministry programs.
Administration	The Priest-in-charge collaborates with the Vestry and Wardens to envision, design and implement new programs. In conjunction with lay leadership, the Priest-in-charge identifies, trains and develops leaders and volunteers. The Priest-in-charge, with the Vestry and other appropriate committees and leadership, ensures the existence of up-to-

date policy and procedure manuals. The Priest-in-charge ensures that appropriate records of the church are properly maintained.

- Annual Meeting** The Priest-in-charge presides over the annual meeting of the Parish unless the Priest-in-charge delegates this responsibility to the Senior Warden. Committee reports from the past year are provided by the Committee Chairpersons.
- Finance and Property** The Priest-in-charge collaborates with the Vestry and appropriate committees to maintain the property and financial integrity of the parish. The Priest-in-charge administers the Priest-in-charge's Discretionary Fund.
- Mission Outreach** With the Vestry and appropriate committees, the Priest-in-charge works to develop mission goals for outreach ministries, maintains current outreach ministries and makes regular evaluations of outreach programs.
- Renewal and Evangelism** The Priest-in-charge encourages the Vestry and committees of the parish to develop goals and programs fostering discipleship, and the Priest-in-charge works with members of the parish who implement these goals and programs.
- Stewardship** The Priest-in-charge collaborates with the Vestry and appropriate committees to expand the stewardship ministry of the parish.
- Outside the Parish** The Priest-in-charge represents the parish in the community. The Priest-in-charge is encouraged to have an active involvement in programs such as Safety Net.
- The Community and Ecumenical Relations** The Priest-in-charge shall carry out an effective ministry and Christian witness in the community and continue established partnerships with area churches.
- Diocesan Relationships** The Priest-in-charge participates fully in the life of the Diocese, attending regular Bible study with the Bishop, clergy meetings and retreats, and serving on committees and commissions as requested by the Bishop. The Priest-in-charge, along with elected representatives of the parish, represent the congregation at the Diocesan Convention.

 **St. Luke's Mission** 

St. Luke's mission is to spread the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service and spiritual growth, with God's help.

St. Luke's Vestry formally adopted this mission statement in 2009.

Hospitality

- ∞ St. Luke's parishioners are welcoming and hospitable to all who come to worship.
- ∞ St. Luke's participates in Scranton's First Friday Art Walk, showing hospitality to the community and artists by providing free space, refreshments, and a place to rest.
- ∞ Each October, on the Feast of St. Francis and in conjunction with First Friday, St. Luke's administers a pet blessing.
- ∞ St. Luke regularly serves its downtown neighbors through programs such as Senior Space.
- ∞ During the times that we are sharing our space with various groups, we offer tours of the church and parish house.

Service

- ∞ The church serves its neighbors by contributions to Safety Net, a ministry that provides food and other necessities to people under-served or outside the scope of other agencies.
- ∞ The church serves the community by offering our space to local organizations, including:
 - ∞ Narcotics Anonymous – serves members of the community who are affected by addictions.
 - ∞ Senior Space – serves the elderly by providing a Sunday afternoon of free entertainment and lunch.
 - ∞ Lyric Consort
 - ∞ Choral Society
 - ∞ Laurel Garden Club

Spiritual Growth

- ∞ St. Luke's chapter of the Daughters of the King, the St. Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary chapter, welcomes all women to membership, to a life of regular prayer and service. Members of this chapter pray regularly for the parish and they have a vocation to support the Priest-in-charge.
- ∞ Our Pastoral Care Committee promotes the spiritual growth of our members and regular attendees who are not able to attend the church.
- ∞ St. Luke's members grow spiritually as they participate in and respond to music and educational programs. We look to our new Priest-in-charge to help us shape and grow these programs.

 **The History of St. Luke's** 

St. Luke's enjoys a rich history spanning over 160 years.

Origin and Early Years. On August 5, 1851, in the same year that Scranton received its current name, The Reverend John Long, an Episcopal priest assigned to missionary work first in Montrose and then in Scranton, led a service of evening prayer in the Village Chapel, which stood on a bluff near the intersection of Adams and Lackawanna Avenues. Afterward, he called a meeting organizing an Episcopal parish. Those first members elected their Wardens and Vestry, and they adopted St. Luke the Evangelist, the "Beloved Physician," as the new parish's patron. A year later, on July 15, 1852, they applied for incorporation as St. Luke's Episcopal Church and broke ground at a site on Penn Avenue between Lackawanna Avenue and Spruce Street, a few blocks from its present location. The first church, of Gothic design, cost \$2,600 and seated 225 persons. The church was completed and ready for consecration on November 13, 1853. The original church was lost to fire in 1859.

Ground was broken for the construction of the second and current edifice on July 5, 1866. The church would continue to bear the name of the Beloved Physician, in the heart of the city's life from 1871 until now.

Father Long became St. Luke's first Rector on Easter Day, 1854, and he served until September 29, 1858. Thirteen rectors followed him:

The Reverend W.E. Robinson, 1859 to 1862
The Reverend A. Augustus Marple, 1863 to 1877
The Reverend C. Inglis Chapin, 1877 to 1879
The Reverend J. Phillip B. Pendleton, S.T.B, 1879 to 1885
The Reverend Henry C. Swentzel, D.D., 1885 to 1892
The Reverend Rogers Israel, D.D., 1892 to 1911
The Reverend Robert Phillip Kreitler, 1912 to 1945
The Reverend Richard Kelley White, 1946 to 1965
The Reverend James R. Moodey, 1965 to 1976
The Reverend Everett W. Francis, 1977 to 1992
The Reverend Charles Grover III, interim rector, 1992
The Reverend Howard S. Stringfellow, 1993 to 2004
The Reverend Peter D. D'Angio, 2008 to 2012

St. Luke's remembers our rectors for their dedication and vision, not only to the well being of our church, but also to the health of our neighbors. The Reverend Rogers Israel, later consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Erie in 1911, saw that young women coming to the city needed housing, and he helped us address this need. Later, he saw that needy women with children lacked the resources to rest from their relentless poverty. Under his leadership St. Luke's established the Girls' Friendly Society and operated a "Room Shelter" for young women coming

to Scranton. St. Luke's parishioners and their friends later established and supported A Summer Home to provide a summer vacation for poor women and their children, and this institution lasted over twenty years, from 1897 until 1921, into the administration of The Reverend Robert Phillip Kreitler.

In keeping with its rector's vision, St. Luke's helped poorer neighbors in other ways, for instance by helping found the Associate Charities, later the Family Welfare Association and by housing a boy's club after the church dedicated the present Parish House in 1899. The club remained in our Parish House, growing to become the Boy's Industrial Association before it moved to its own building and developed into the Boys and Girls Club now located throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. Responding to a movement to establish free kindergartens in the city, Father Israel founded three of them under the superintendence of parishioners. These were later incorporated into Scranton's public school system. Father Israel and his parishioners not only helped St. Luke's grow and prosper, but contributed to the welfare of the city of Scranton.

Rectors who followed Father Israel continued his work. During the thirty-three year tenure of Father Robert Kreitler, St. Luke's continued to merit the title "the Church in the Heart of Things." Father Kreitler helped to organize the Community Chest and served on many welfare boards, among them the Scranton Recreation Commission and the Scranton Bureau of Recreation, which he chaired.

Father Kreitler also supported the mission churches established by his predecessors, including Church of the Good Shepherd in the Green Ridge section of Scranton, and St. David's and St. George's, also in the city. In 1913, Father Kreitler developed a suburban mission in Glenburn Township, which became the current parish of the Church of the Epiphany.

Later in the century, The Reverend James L. Moodey, later Bishop of Ohio, developed new structures of leadership, especially enabling more lay participation within the church; at the same time, he continued St. Luke's tradition of service to neighbor. After he helped revitalize the Central City Clergy, successfully enlisting participation of Roman Catholic and Jewish congregations, the association formed the Scranton Neighbors (now Lackawanna Neighbors) and raised seed money to build low-income housing. We continue to have a board member on the board of this organization.

After Father Moodey, during The Reverend Everett Francis' fourteen-year term of service, St. Luke's saw a transformation in its liturgy—a new prayer book, a new hymnal, and a freestanding altar. The building itself changed: our church and parish house, as we see them today, owe much to his vision. Through all these changes, and led by their rector, St. Luke's maintained its commitment to the poor. It was through his efforts that the Community Bread Basket and Safety Net programs were formed with other Central City Protestant churches, and St. Luke's still supports these programs, though they are based at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Scranton's Hill section.

During Father Francis' tenure, St. Luke's expanded its mission to include the arts, and the church shared the parish house with the Lucan Center, a program that included theater, music, and visual arts. The lower level of the Parish House hosted the start up of the Senior Craftsmen Shop, directed by the rector's wife Gail Francis and another parishioner, Beverly Hoeffner. Although the Lucan Center was separated from St. Luke's under Rev. Howard Stringfellow, the church continued in its twin commitments to the city: to provide service to the poor and cultural enrichment. Father Stringfellow was responsible for instituting the St. Luke's Quartet. He also led in necessary renovations of the church building, particularly Kreitler Hall.

Under our most recent rector, Father Peter D. D'Angio, the church worked to renew relationships in the city and region of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and, once again, to open the doors of St. Luke's to the community. Since Father D'Angio's departure, St. Luke's has continued its traditions of reverent worship, community outreach, and hospitality. Under the leadership of our Senior Warden, the Vestry has considered participating in the Diocese of Bethlehem's St. Matthew's Society, the planned giving and end of life ministry. St. Luke's has continued efforts to serve the poor and marginalized, particularly through Safety Net and Senior Space, but also working with such organizations as Lackawanna Neighbors, Keystone Community Resources, Pathstone, and Narcotics Anonymous, with the latter holding weekly meetings in the Parish House. We also provide rehearsal and performance space for musical groups such as Lyric Consort, and we play an ongoing role in First Friday program. Our goal is to provide to our new Priest-in-charge a strong and dedicated core of Christians striving to do God's work and going forward under the Priest-in-charge's guidance to fulfill our mission of spreading the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service and spiritual growth.

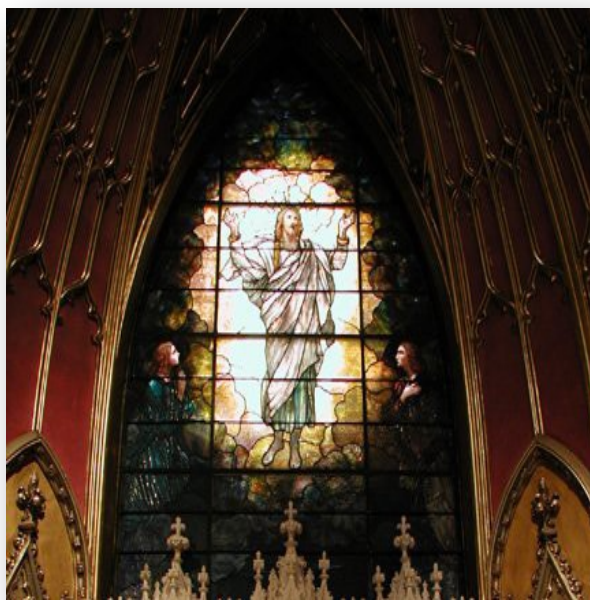
❁ St. Luke's Today ❁

Physical Plant

Completed in 1871, the present building of St. Luke's Church stands on Wyoming Avenue, in downtown Scranton, as an example English or Ornamental Gothic architecture. Its architects, P. and R. Upjohn, also designed Trinity Church, Wall Street in New York City.

With an eye-catching exterior constructed of stone, its interior is equally striking, containing an high altar and reredos made from Italian marble. The sanctuary is a beautiful space, with a soaring nave where cool white marble is balanced by warm wood paneling and painted columns. Tiffany chandeliers provide a warm light, and deep red velvet cushions echo the red of the chancel. On a sunny day, worshippers are surrounded by light: tall stained glass windows line the north and south side of the building, with five windows on the north representing scenes from the life of Christ, from the angel's Annunciation to Mary, to the Lord's entrance to Jerusalem. The three windows on the south—original to the building—are non-representational, and they contain Christian symbols such as the anchor representing hope crowning the central window. Although two of the stained glass windows are often singled out as made by Louis Comfort Tiffany--the Ascension window above the high altar and reredos, and the Nativity Window located on the north side of the church—St. Luke's is glad for all of these windows as they lead a worshipper's eye upward, to the altar with its cross and flowers, to the image of Christ in the Ascension window placed centrally in the chancel over the altar.

Worship at St. Luke's Church is also enhanced by the sound of St. Luke's well-maintained and cared for three-manual pipe organ. Installed in 1964, with over 1900 pipes divided among thirty-two ranks, and prominently featured on the pulpit side of the chancel, the instrument was built by M. P. Möller, Opus 9916. (For further information, go to <database.organsociety.org>).



In 1987, when the exterior and interior of the church were renovated, a free-standing altar and sacrament house were installed; the altar rail was moved to permit accessibility for all; the choir was also moved for better visibility and sound. The sanctuary lights and sound system were also upgraded.

At the same time, the chapel was renovated and the Good Shepherd window was moved from the side of the church into the chapel. Housed in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd is a columbarium, a place of Christian burial for those who choose to be cremated and interred in the church. The columbarium was established by the Vestry as a ministry of the parish in 1989. The Committal service from the Book of Common Prayer is used for all remains interred here.



The church has three entrances, the main entrance, an entrance from the Parish House and a handicapped entrance from the parking lot side, installed during the 1987 renovations. On the north side of the church, facing Wyoming Avenue is the Edward W. Warren Memorial Garden dedicated by Bishop Mark Dyer in May 1992 and home to small plantings and gardens. Behind the garden is a parking lot.

The church offices are located on the main floor of the parish hall, adjacent to the church and connected by a covered vestibule facing Wyoming Avenue. This floor also contains a lounge, rest rooms, kitchen, and an auditorium or multi-purpose room called Kreitler Hall. The upper floors hold large classrooms, choir room, guild room, a small kitchen, two restrooms, and a large nursery space. The top floors have several apartments currently under consideration for low-income housing.



Membership

Demographically, the congregation of St. Luke's resembles the population of the city it serves; thus, many members are over fifty-five and the congregation includes more women than men as members. As reported in March of 2013, St. Luke's membership is comprised of 171 baptized members, 129 of whom are members in good standing; thirty-five are under age sixteen, and twenty-nine are active but not baptized in the parish. In 2013, St. Luke's baptized one child and confirmed seven, six youth and one adult.

Worship

St. Luke's celebrates Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at the 5:00 Saturday service and both Sunday services, except for special services held during Advent and Lent. We have traditionally worshipped midweek, as well, and expect to resume this service under the guidance of our new Priest-in-charge.

Attendance in 2013

In an average week of 2013, sixty-eight people attended the Saturday and both Sunday services. On Easter, the time when we typically attract our highest numbers of worshippers, 152 persons attended two services; similarly, at Christmas, 159 attended three services.

Christian Education

St. Luke's Church School, serving infants through grade 8, is held on Sundays during the later sung service. Current enrollment is 4.



Music Ministry

St. Luke's music program believes that church music, vocal and instrumental, serves God in two ways: those who sing or play glorify God by demonstrating and celebrating the beauty that is God's own gift in the context of the worship service; second, the musicians lead the congregation in acts of singing and worship. The music ministry thus centers around the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist. Additionally, the Quartet and organ are present on major Feast Days, Holy days, Easter Vigil, Easter Morning, and Christmas Vigil Services.



St. Luke's organist and Quartet (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) lead Congregational Hymns and Service Music drawn from the Hymnal, 1982. Choral anthems are selected from the long tradition of choral music for which the Anglican and Episcopal churches are known and respected. In addition to Hymns, Anthems, and Service Music, the Quartet also employs a variety of chant-styles (with congregational responses where appropriate) for the Psalms, and Anglican chant for certain feasts such as Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.

In all of its efforts, the Music Ministry of St. Luke's strives to select and perform liturgical music whose melodies and texts are congruent with the Readings and Gospels for the occasion, as appointed by the Revised Common Lectionary.

Community Service

As our parish history suggests, St. Luke's enjoys a tradition of strong community involvement. In keeping with this tradition, the parish dispenses approximately 25% of the annual income on the endowment through the Church and Community Fund to the needy of our community, primarily through an annual pledge for support of Safety Net, Senior Space and First Friday.

Safety Net meets the short-term needs of the poor, primarily those whom other social service agencies cannot immediately serve. For example, it provides transportation and money for medical bills or emergency groceries and other necessities. Participating churches--currently Covenant Presbyterian Church, Hickory Street Presbyterian Church, and Elm Park Methodist Church--and their parishioners donate money as well as household and school supplies, toiletries,

food, and other items. The supporting churches provide the members of the governing body for Safety Net and the operating budget, with St. Luke's and Covenant bearing the largest shares. Established in 1989, its offices are at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Senior Space aims to provide a monthly meal to our elderly neighbors, primarily residents of Scranton's high rises. It also provides a venue for other collaborations focused on seniors. At the Sept. 2014 Senior Space, Walgreen's Pharmacy held a health fair and Apprise (through the Voluntary Action Center) provided information about Medicare D's prescription plan for all who attended.



Stewardship and Parish Finances

While St. Luke's recognizes that stewardship involves its members in gifts of time and talent as well as treasure, we look to our new Priest-in-charge to lead us to grow in membership and develop multiple sources of income. We recognize that parish pledges are crucial to the parish's ongoing operation, and currently, our pledges do not meet all of our financial needs. Thus, in 2013, there were fifty-eight pledging units. The total annual amount pledged by the congregation is \$72,677, as averaged over the previous five years. Operating expenses and salaries exceed pledged income every year. St. Luke's parishioners have tried to make up the shortfall in large and small ways, for instance making and selling Welsh cookies, and also--making use of our location on the parade route—selling snacks at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We have written and obtained grants; the Diocese recently funded some Senior Space gatherings, for example. The Vestry is establishing for St. Luke's a 501c3, which would allow us to apply for a broader range of external grants, particularly to help us with the expenses of our beautiful but expensive buildings.

Finally, however, our income from all sources has not matched our financial needs. As a result, and like many other churches in the Diocese of Bethlehem, the church has drawn on its endowment to meet its operating expenses—fortunately, at a time when the stock market was increasing enough to keep our endowment stable.

St. Luke's looks to our new priest to lead us in understanding and practicing stewardship. We expect our new Priest-in-charge to lead us to help St. Luke's move forward.

St. Luke's Paid Staff

Priest-in-charge	The Priest-in-charge is St. Luke's spiritual, pastoral, and administrative leader, responsible to the Bishop for conduct of worship and administration of sacraments under Canon Law and the rules of the Diocese of Bethlehem.
Parish Secretary	The Secretary reports to the Priest-in-charge and handles all parish correspondence. The Secretary supports the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, and also prepares all parish mailings.
Sexton	The Sexton cleans and maintains all interior and exterior spaces in the church and parish house.
Music Director	The Music Director plans the music for all regular services at St. Luke's in collaboration with the Priest-in-charge and the Liturgy & Worship Committee, and supervises the activities of the Organist and the Quartet. This is a part-time position, presently filled by

one of the members of the Quartet.

Organist

The Organist is a part-time position, providing accompaniment for congregational hymns, service music, and anthems for the Choral Eucharist on Sunday mornings, in addition to major feasts such as Christmas Vigil, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Vigil, plus funerals and weddings as available.

The Quartet

Made up of four professional singers (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass), several of whom are also parish members, The St. Luke's Quartet provides choral music at the Choral Eucharist on Sunday mornings, plus major feasts as noted in the Organist description. The Quartet rehearses once a week, on Sunday morning before the Choral Eucharist. In 2008, The Quartet released its first CD recording, "Christmas from St. Luke's," which quickly sold out.

The Vestry

The Vestry has nine members, each serving a three-year term, with three rotating off the board yearly and three new members elected. Vestry members are not eligible for re-election unless they serve as officers. The Vestry meets monthly.

The Vestry is responsible to manage the parish's property and business affairs, except as provided by the Canon Law.

Senior Warden The Priest-in-charge appoints a vestry member to be Senior Warden in conjunction with our By-Laws. Acting in conjunction with the Priest-in-charge, the Senior Warden sees that all things required for the proper performance of public worship are provided and kept in order.

Junior Warden Elected annually by the vestry, the Junior Warden is the general supervisor over church property; he or she sees that repairs and replacements are made, as authorized by the vestry.

Secretary Elected annually by the Vestry, the Secretary keeps proper minutes of the meetings of the congregation and the Vestry, and attends to the official correspondence of the Vestry.

Treasurer Elected annually by the Vestry, the Treasurer oversees the collection and receipt of all monies for the support of the parish and other special purposes, keeps accounts in a bank approved by the vestry and pays out monies as authorized by budget or other special appropriations, is assisted by the Finance Committee in the preparation of monthly financial reports to the Vestry.

Committees of St. Luke's

Following is a list of major committees established by the Vestry. These committees serve at the discretion of the Vestry, and may evolve according to need.

Endowment This committee oversees the investment of the trust funds of the parish and meets quarterly with the representatives of the bank. The committee is responsible for seeing that the funds are safely and prudently invested.

Finance The Finance Committee is charged with the canonical responsibilities regarding finances. The committee oversees the budget and all the monies received by the parish, and prepares a budget for consideration by the Vestry, to whom it reports monthly about all funds in parish accounts.

Pastoral Care	This committee visits and communes with listed shut-ins through visits, telephone calls, and mailings, including Christmas gifts and Valentine cards, and <i>Forward Day By Day</i> mailings. Members take communion to homebound and hospitalized parishioners as requested.
Personnel	This committee develops job descriptions, recommends salary and benefit packages, participates in annual performance reviews, and works to resolve personnel issues.
Property and Buildings	This committee is chaired by the Junior Warden. In general this committee supervises St. Luke's property, to prevent damage, and it oversees repairs and replacements as directed or authorized by the vestry. This committee oversees maintenance and preventative upkeep.
The Warren Garden Committee	This committee meets monthly during warmer weather to maintain the grounds of the garden.
Worship	This committee advises and assists the Priest-in-charge in the planning and conduct of public worship, including music, lay participation, and special services.
Youth	This group develops programs and activities providing spiritual growth, services, and fellowship to the children and youth of the parish.

Other Groups at St. Luke's

Chalice Bearers, Ushers, Lectors, and Intercessors Lay persons continue to serve in these capacities and are overseen by St. Luke's Verger-in-Training.

Daughters of the King St. Luke's chapter of this national organization, the St. Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary chapter, was chartered in April of 2003. Open to all women, the members take a vow of daily prayer and service. They have sponsored several service projects at St. Luke's since their inception.

The Women's Group The group is primarily a service organization. Monthly gatherings to bake Welsh cookies for sale throughout the community, mostly by pre-order, honor a decades-long tradition of raising funds for distribution to community services and to support parish needs. In addition, this group is the hospitality arm of the parish, with a calendar of annual events and the readiness to extend a welcome at special events. It also helps at other parish events.

✿ The Community ✿

History of Scranton



Scranton in 1855, as depicted by George Inness's painting of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad roundhouse (facing west).

Scranton is in northeastern Pennsylvania and is the county seat of Lackawanna County. Scranton was incorporated as a borough on February 14, 1856, and as a city on April 23, 1866.

By 1900 Scranton's population was about 102,026, making it the 38th-largest U.S. city. The turn of the 20th century saw many beautiful homes of Victorian architecture built in the Hill and Green Ridge sections of the city. Some of these structures remain. By 2010, the population of Scranton numbered 76,089, according to the U.S. Census. Scranton is the geographic center of the Lackawanna river valley and was the largest producer of anthracite coal. But unlike some other cities in our region, Scranton took its name from a family involved in manufacturing steel. In 1840 brothers Selden T. and George W. Scranton founded what would become the Lackawanna Steel Company, producing iron for the railroad and providing competition to English exports. The Scranton's firm followed suit two years later, making rails for the Erie Railroad in New York State, and soon became a major producer.

Scranton Today

With the demise of coal and steel, and diminishing rail use, Scranton suffered economic decline, but a renewed interest in revitalization has occurred since the mid-1980s, often centered around the city's buildings and history. Aged and empty properties are being redesigned and marketed as tourist attractions. The Steamtown National Historic Site (NHS) captures the area's once-prominent position in the railroad industry.



The former DL&W train station was restored as the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. The Electric City Trolley Museum was created next to the DL&W yards that the Steamtown NHS occupies. Other attractions responsible for recent popularity and favorable attention to the Scranton area include the Snö Mountain Ski Resort, which also operates a water park during the summer months, and PNC field, home of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Railriders, the NY Yankees triple-A baseball team. Minor league hockey is also available at the Mohegan Sun Arena, home of the WB/S Penguins, AHL Affiliate of the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins.

Shopping, movie theaters, an active cultural community and expanded walking trails, as well as Scranton's close proximity to New York City and Philadelphia, and, of course, the beautiful Poconos, offer both visitors and residents alike a variety of activities.

Education

Elementary and secondary public students attend public schools or private prep schools such as Scranton Prep or Wyoming Seminary. More than 60 percent of public high school graduates go on to higher education; the rate is even higher for graduates of private school. The Diocese of Scranton operates a parochial school system that spreads across multiple counties.

College students find many colleges and universities in northeastern Pennsylvania. Closest to St. Luke's is the University of Scranton, a Jesuit institution ranked among the 10 Best Regional Universities in the North (*U.S. News & World Report*). Also in Scranton is Marywood University, a Catholic university with a 115-acre campus said to be one of the prettiest in the state due to its large arboretum spread across the campus.

The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC), Scranton's newest contribution to higher education, was conceived in an effort to respond to the regional decrease in physicians, and so to improve the health of community residents. TCMC was awarded degree granting authority by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2008, received preliminary accreditation in 2008, and accepted its first class of medical and master's students in 2009.

Health Care

The greater Scranton area has a robust medical infrastructure, with many hospitals, including three within Scranton's boundaries. A regional trauma center, maternity center, and life-flight capabilities are available. Allied Services provides one of the nation's largest rehabilitation facilities.

The Culture

Scranton boasts a thriving arts and musical landscape, including a philharmonic orchestra. St. Luke's members and friends have played a part in this scene, and have included St. Luke's as a venue almost every month in the very successful First Friday events. St. Luke's contributes to the artistic community not only through participation in First Friday, but in hosting musical, choral, and visual arts groups. These perform and display work within the church buildings, where audiences can enjoy music in the beauty and lovely acoustics of our nave or look at the art displayed in spacious Kreitler Hall and the rest of the space provided in St. Luke's Throop Parish House.